

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the interview granted on April 21, 2011. The Examiner and the Applicant discussed amendments to the claim 17 that distinguish the claims from the references. The Examiner indicated that narrowing claim 17 to "...carbon fibers are coated with a nitride or a carbide bond and are embedded in a metal such that the composite material is heatproof..." would overcome the rejection for obviousness over a combination of Westre *et al.* and Suyama. The amendment is supported in the specification at paragraph [0021], for example.

According to the Office Action: "Westre does not disclose the carbon fibers coated in a nitride or carbide bond." Also, neither Westre *et al.* nor Suyama teach or suggest carbon fibers coated with a nitride or carbide bond embedded in a metal, as now recited in claim 17, as amended. In Westre *et al.* continuous fibers are embedded in a resin matrix, and the resin matrix/fiber composite may be layered between titanium foil layers. In Suyama, fibers are embedded in a ceramic matrix. Thus, the combination of Westre *et al.* and Suyama fails to teach or suggest embedding carbon fibers coated with a nitride or carbide bond in a metal. Instead, the continuous fibers of Westre *et al.* are embedded in a resin material and the composite resin matrix material is layered with metal foil layers, and Suyama teaches a ceramic matrix composite. Therefore, Westre *et al.*, whether taken alone or in combination with Suyama or any of the other cited references, fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 17, as amended, and the combination fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness over claim 17, as amended.

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Respectfully submitted,



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